

Response to Amendment

The Pre-Appeal Brief Request for Review received on July 7, 2009 is acknowledged and entered. Claims 1, 3-15, 17-28, 30-42 and 44-56 are currently pending.

Drawings

The drawings filed on December 8, 2003 are accepted by the Examiner.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112, 2nd Paragraph

The claim rejections under 35 USC 112 have been withdrawn due to Applicant's amendment.

Double Patenting

Applicant's arguments regarding the double Patenting Rejection is persuasive, thus the double patenting rejection has been withdrawn.

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it **MUST** be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Howard L. Speight (Reg. No. 37,733) on July 29, 2009.

The application has been amended as follows:

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

Request processing is optimized ~~A method, computer program and database system for optimizing processing of a request are disclosed.~~ The request has elements. The method, computer program and database system includes selecting an access path for the request taking into consideration a stored actual request element cost, processing the request using the selected access path, producing one or more actual request element costs, and storing the one or more actual request element costs.

IN THE CLAIMS

1. (currently amended) A method for optimizing processing of a request, the request including one or more predicates, each predicate referencing one or more relations, the method including:

the computer-implemented steps of:

identifying the relations in the request; identifying one or more access paths for each relation;

identifying the predicates in the request; for each predicate, associating the predicate with the one or more access paths identified for the one or more relations referenced in the predicate;

estimating costs of executing the predicate using the one or more access paths associated with the predicate; and

for at least one access path for which a cost was estimated, determining that a stored actual access path cost for the access path exists, and, in response, substituting the stored actual access path cost for the estimated access path cost, the stored actual access path cost for the access path being a measured cost of executing the predicate using the access path;

for each predicate, for each relation referenced in the predicate, selecting an access path from among the one or more access paths associated with the predicate;

executing the request using the selected access paths for the predicates, measuring an actual cost of executing the predicates in the request; and

storing the measured actual costs as actual access path costs.

15. (currently amended) A method for optimizing processing of a workload group, the workload group including one or more requests, at least one of the requests including one or more predicates, each predicate referencing one or more relations the method including:

the computer-implemented steps of:

identifying the relations in the at least one request request;

identifying one or more access paths for each relation;

identifying the predicates in the request;

for each predicate, associating the predicate with the one or more access paths identified for the one or more relations referenced in the predicate;

estimating costs of executing the predicate using the one or more access paths associated with the predicate; and

for at least one access path for which a cost was estimated, determining that a stored actual access path cost for the access path exists, and, in response, substituting the stored actual access path cost for the estimated access path cost, the stored actual access path cost for the access path being a measured cost of executing the predicate using the access path;

for each predicate, for each relation referenced in the predicate, selecting an access path from among the one or more access paths associated with the predicate;

executing the request using the selected access paths for the predicates, measuring an actual cost of executing the predicates in the request; and

storing the measured actual costs as actual access path costs, categorized by workload group.

Allowable Subject Matter

Claims 1, 3-15, 17-28, 30-42, and 44-56 are allowed.

The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

1. As per independent claims 1 and 15, the best prior art, Osborn (US Patent Number 6,026,391), while disclosing systems and methods for estimating query response times in a computer system; and Eberhard (US Patent Number 6,003,022), while disclosing a database execution cost and system performance estimator on cost and system performance estimator, does not disclose or fairly teach:

for at least one access path for which a cost was estimated, determining that a stored actual access path cost for the access path exists, and, in response, substituting the stored actual access path cost for the estimated access path cost, the stored actual access path cost for the access path being a measured cost of executing the predicate using the access path;

for each predicate, for each relation referenced in the predicate, selecting an access path from among the one or more access paths associated with the predicate;

executing the request using the selected access paths for the predicates, measuring an actual cost of executing the predicates in the request; and

storing the measured actual costs as actual access path costs.

2. The best NPL prior art, "Access Path Selection in a Relational Database Management System" does not disclose or fairly teach:

As per independent claims 1 and 15, the best prior art, Osborn (US Patent Number 6,026,391), while disclosing systems and methods for estimating query response times in a computer system; and Eberhard (US Patent Number 6,003,022), while disclosing a database execution cost and system performance estimator on cost and system performance estimator, does not disclose or fairly teach:

automatically detecting at the mail room the special service indicator on the mail item and determining the special service delivery required based on the detection of the special service indicator;

applying at the mail room a unique office worker generated identifier to the mail item, the unique identifier including an electronic address of a company server;

submitting the mail item with the unique identifier thereon to the carrier for the special service delivery;

receiving from the carrier at the electronic address obtained by the carrier from the unique identifier on the mail item information relating to the location of the mail item;

storing the information relating to the location of the mail item at the company server; and

providing the office worker with access to the company server to obtain the information relating to the location of the mail item.

3. The remaining dependent claims are considered allowable, as they are dependent and based off of an allowable independent claim.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Freda A. Nelson whose telephone number is (571) 272-7076. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday - Friday, 10:00 am –6:30 pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, John Hayes can be reached on 571-272-6708. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only.

For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>.

Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

/F. A. N./
Examiner, Art Unit 3628

/JOHN W HAYES/
Supervisory Patent Examiner, Art Unit 3628